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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MTA
KÖZPONTI FIZIKAI KUTATÓ INTÉZETE [HU/
HU]; Konkoly Thege ut 29-33., H-1525 Budapest XII.
(HU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : APAI, Pál [HU/
HU]; Leányka u. 22., H-1221 Budapest XXII. (HU).
KISS, Árpád [HU/HU]; Kruspér u. 6-8., H-1111 Bu-
dapest XI. (HU). KROO, Norbert [HU/HU]; Apáczai
Csere J. u. 17., H-1052 Budapest V. (HU). RÓZSA,
Károly [HU/HU]; Szakasits A. ut 44/b., H-1115 Bu-
dapest XI. (HU). RUBIN, György [HU/HU]; Füle-
mile ut 12-18., H-1121 Budapest XII. (HU).(74) Agent: PATENTBUREAU DANUBIA; P.O. Box 198.,
H-1368 Budapest (HU).(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (Euro-
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With international search report.

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STIMULATING BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES

(57) Abstract

The method and device is designed for biostimulation (for example wound-healing, acupuncture, rheumatologic and cosmetic purposes). The device includes a light source connected to a power supply, the light source consists of one or more light emitting diodes. The said light emitting diodes which have advantageously polarized light or are equipped with a polarizer are connected to a power supply which includes a modulator.

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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR STIMULATING BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES

5 The subject matter of the invention is a method and device for stimulating biological processes, for example for wound-healing, acupuncture, rheumatology and cosmetic purposes.

It is known that for treating wounds slow in healing lasers may be used in clinical practice. 10 Such lasers are generally He-Ne or Ar-ion lasers. During treatment the laser light beam is directed to the wound by means of appropriate optical devices, and by moving the beam, the whole surface of the wound is swept. Several contradictory theories 15 have been put forward to explain the biologically stimulating effect of the laser light but at present no generally accepted scientific interpretation is available. The publications mostly provide only the results of the treatments and only a few attempts 20 were made to decide to which specific feature of the laser is the biostimulative effect due. On the basis of the results published, a general work is for example, "Der Laser" by Endre MESTER (Springer Verlag, 1981), laser beam treatment has greater potential 25 applications in clinical practice than have so far been taken advantage of.

It should however be said that certain factors obstruct the general employment of laser treatment in clinical practice. One of these factors 30 is that continuously working lasers having appropriate beam diameter and efficiency are expensive, the other factor is that, these lasers have intricate structural set up and their operating voltage is high therefore their handling requires spe-



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cific knowledge. Another drawback is that as there are technical limits of increase the beam diameter in cases if you wish to ensure the generally used power density of $2-10 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ for any single treatment so the sweeping of wounds of bigger surface requires due foresight.

When treating wounds slow in healing successful experiments were performed by means of projection machines equipped with a polarizer and an infra-red cutting filter in addition to the usual optical system (Bazsó, Varju, Szegő, Rózsa, Apai: "Employment of incoherent polarized wide-band light beam for facilitating wound healing" KFKI 1981-73., Budapest). Although such projection machines are not as expensive as lasers, they are large, they generally require cooling, and they work with low efficiency.

The aim of this invention was to produce a device which stimulated biological processes at least to the same extent as the devices known so far but which is simple in structure, is inexpensive, small-sized, reliable, has a long life as well as being efficient and thus can widely be used in addition to medical applications for cosmetic purposes and for treatment at home.

The invention overcome the drawbacks of currently available devices by utilizing one or more light emitting diodes (LEDs) as light source. LEDs give advantageously polarized light or may be equipped with a polarizer. These LEDs are equipped with a power supply including a modulator.

Larger surfaces can advantageously be irradiated by utilizing additional LEDs, for example by arranging them in matrix which enable uniform and

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rapid treatment of the whole surface without sweeping. In contrast to the practice until now that filtered the infra-red rays, LEDs working in the infra-red range can advantageously be applied as well, especially for the treatment of the tissues which are deep below the skin - as a result of the increased penetration depth. The equipment embodies a power supply with a modulator by means of which the LEDs can emit light pulse series enabling high peak power of the pulses at low average power. In the case of lasers used for similar purposes such modulation can be realized only in a narrower power range and with complicated and expensive equipment.

It may be advantageous to use LEDs with polarized light or to use a polarizer in front of the non-polarized LEDs. For the latter case a polarizer prism, polarizer plate or a glass plate placed at appropriate angles (Brewster angle) can be used as the polarizer.

The said invention is thus simple and safe, low in price, has great reliability and long life thereby enabling the general use of the equipment and its employment for treatment at home or for cosmetic purposes.



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C L A I M S

1. Method for stimulating biological processes mainly for wound-healing, acupuncture, rheumatologic and cosmetic purposes characterized in that the light of light emitting diodes is used for radiation treatments.
2. Device for stimulating biological processes mainly for wound-healing, acupuncture, rheumatologic and cosmetic purposes, containing a light source connected to a power supply characterized by the light source consisting of one or more light emitting diodes.
3. The device described in claim 1, characterized by the embodiment of LED (LEDs) with polarized light or by it (them) being equipped with a polarizer.
4. The device described in claims 1 and 2, characterized by the LED (LEDs) being connected to a power supply.
5. The device described in claims 2-4, characterized in that the LEDs are arranged in form of matrix.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/HU 84/00031

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.Cl.³: A 61 N 5/06, A 61 H 39/00

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched *

Classification System |

Classification Symbols

IPC³

A 61 N 5/00, A 61 H 39/00, G 09 F 9/00

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are included in the Fields Searched *

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ¹⁴

Category *	Citation of Document, ¹⁵ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹⁷	Relevant to Claim No. ¹⁸
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X Y	US, A, 4 112 923 (TOMECEK) 12 September 1978 (12.09.78), see abstract, column 5, lines 14-16, fig. 7.	(1,2,4) (5)
Y	US, A, 4 241 277 (HINTZE) 23 Dezember 1980 (23.12.80), see abstract, fig. 1.	(5)
X Y	FR, A1, 2 371 935 (NOGIER) 23 June 1978 (23.06.78), see page 2, lines 22-25, page 3, line 40 - page 4, line 3, fig. 3.	(1,2,4) (3)
Y	DE, A1, 3 220 218 (FENYÖ) 17 March 1983 (17.03.83), see abstract, claim 1, page 7, line 30 - page 8, line 17.	(3)
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IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search *

13 June 1984 (13.06.84)

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report *

20 June 1984 (20.06.84)

International Searching Authority *

AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE

Signature of Authorized Officer ¹⁹

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III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

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X	EP, A2, 0 058 105 (JAVELLE) 18 August 1982 (18.08.82), see page 6, line 36 - page 7, line 25.	(1,2,4)
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Im Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentedokument Patent document cited in search report Document de brevet cité dans le rapport de recherche	Datum der Veröffentlichung Publication date Date de publication	Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie Patent family member(s) Membre(s) de la famille de brevets	Datum der Veröffentlichung Publication date Date de publication
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Anhang zum internationalen Recherchenbericht über die internationale Patentanmeldung Nr.

Annex to the International Search Report on International Patent Application No. PCT/HU 84/00031

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